

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1005

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$1,160,000.00 in funding for “The Stitch” in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Inc., located at 84 Walton Street NW, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30303. The project location where funds will be used is 435 West Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308 (I75/85 between Ted Turner Drive and Peachtree St).

The funding would be used to complete Phase 1 of the project. The Stitch is a cap over the section of the Interstate 75/85 (the Connector) in Atlanta’s Central Business District between Ted Turner Drive and Piedmont Avenue. The cap will be a 3/4-mile platform creating a 14-acre park and resurrected street network that will reconnect this divided area of Downtown and catalyze real estate investment around it. Once completed, the Stitch will do the following:

- Repurpose underutilized assets created by the construction of the interstate highway system.
- Leverage access to transit by fostering transit-oriented development at the Civic Center MARTA rail station and introducing an off-street bus facility.
- Create urban greenspace and new development pad sites both atop and adjacent to the platform.
- Develop a vibrant public realm with quality civic infrastructure and interconnected open spaces.

This is a good use of taxpayer dollars because it will generate long term revenue that will directly benefit the public. The Stitch project directly aligns with local, regional, state, and federal government policy objectives for investment in transportation infrastructure. Specifically, it would improve mobility and access, create jobs and boost economic and community development, and revitalize the downtown region of Atlanta.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikema Williams", is positioned above the printed name.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress